

Applicants elect Group II (claims 1-6 and 11-13), with traverse.

Both claims 7 and 14 of Group I and claims 8-10 of Group III are ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1 of Group II. As a result, a finding of allowability of Group II would also make the claims of Group I and Group III instantly allowable. Accordingly, no burden is placed upon the Examiner and rejoinder of all three groups and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

#### Conclusion

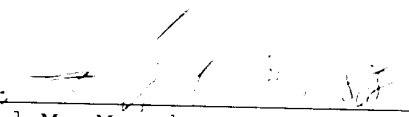
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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